

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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SUBJ: SCHOOL AUTHORITIES SUSPEND CLASSES AT KOREA AND OTHER
UNIVERSITIES

REF: SEOUL 6783 B. SEOUL 6733

1. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES HAVE ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION OF
CLASSES AT VARIOUS UNIVERSITIES BOTH IN SEOUL AREA AND
PROVINCES IN RESPONSE TO DEMONSTRATIONS CALLING FOR
RELEASE OF PERSONS CONVICTED UNDER ROKG'S EMERGENCY
MEASURES COURTS-MARTIAL. MOST PROMINENT OF THESE
SCHOOLS IS KOREA UNIVERSITY.

2. AT MEETING ON OCT 11, (REF A) KOREA UNIVERSITY SUSPENDED
CLASSES UNTIL OCT 19. MEETING WAS CALLED FOLLOWING CLASHES
BETWEEN STUDENTS AND RIOT POLICE ON OCT 10 AND 11.
POLICE REPORTEDLY RELEASED 20 STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN HELD
FOR INTERROGATION FOLLOWING THOSE DEMONSTRATIONS.

3. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AT KONKUK UNIVERSITY DECIDED
ON OCT 14 TO SUSPEND CLASSES FOR ONE WEEK. IN
PARALLEL MOVE, TONGKUK UNIVERSITY WILL ALSO SUSPEND
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CLASSES BUT LENGTH OF SUSPENSION REPORTEDLY HAS NOT

YET BEEN DETERMINED. THESE UNIVERSITY ACTIONS WERE TAKEN IN WAKE OF STUDENT RALLIES AT BOTH SCHOOLS INVOLVING APPROXIMATELY 1,000 STUDENTS AT EACH. CHONNAM UNIVERSITY IN KWANGJU ANNOUNCED IT WOULD CLOSE UNTIL OCT 18, FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION BY AT LEAST 400 STUDENTS ON OCT 14. CHONBUK UNIVERSITY ALSO IN KWANGJU WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL OCT 21.

4. OVER WEEK END BEGINNING OCT 13, 700 STUDENTS AT CHUNGANG UNIVERSITY ALSO RALLIED BUT ATTEMPTS AT FULL-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE THWARTED BY PROMPT ACTION BY RIOT POLICE. SCHOOL HAS DECIDED TO SUSPEND CLASSES FROM OCT 16 THRU 21. FOUR HUNDRED STUDENTS FROM LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE AT CHUNGNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN TAEJON ALSO RALLIED. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES THERE ANNOUNCED DISMISSAL OF SIX STUDENTS PERMANENTLY AND 11 STUDENTS TO BE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY. SCHOOL WILL ALSO BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY. ACCORDING TO USIS SOURCES, ON OCT 15 DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CONTINUING AT PUSAN UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY MEMBERS ARE MEETING IN EMERGENCY SESSION TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE CLOSING OF SCHOOL. TONGA UNIVERSITY IN PUSAN MAY ALSO BE CLOSED.

5. USIS SOURCES ALSO REPORT THAT ON OCT 15, 580 STUDENTS AT SUNGSHIN SACRED HEART WOMAN'S COLLEGE IN CHUNCHON WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE DEMANDING RELEASE OF IMPRISONED STUDENTS CONVICTED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES. ANOTHER 200 STUDENTS THERE ORGANIZED PRAYER MEETING ON PREVIOUS DAY FOR SAME PURPOSE.

6. COMMENT: MOMENTUM OF STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS HAS CLEARLY PICKED UP IN PAST DAYS ALTHOUGH NUMBERS INVOLVED NOT UNDULY LARGE. THEY ARE NOW INVOLVING THE PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES AS WELL AS SEOUL CAMPUSES. KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS REACTED QUICKLY AND FIRMLY. TOUGH GOVERNMENT STAND ON STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OUTLINED IN EDUCATION MINISTER'S STATEMENT (SEPTEL) HAS RESULTED IN SEVEN UNIVERSITY CLOSINGS TO DATE WITH MORE PROBABLE. SCHOOL AUTHORITIES ARE BEING SUBJECTED INTENSE GOVERNMENT PRESSURE TO PUT LID ON CAMPUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMONSTRATIONS. WHILE MOST SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS CALL FOR ONE WEEK SUSPENSION OF CLASSES, PERIOD MAY WELL BE EXTENDED AS HAS BEEN TRUE IN PAST YEARS TO AVOID DIRECT GOVT INTERVENTION. SNEIDER

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